12/24/71

Dear Sylvia,

If Xmas is not yet here (lacking 3 hours), the last mail before it is.

And no word from Salisbury.

Not even the printed form.

I do not attribute this to the lack of forms or a shortage of help - or delay in the mails.

As you know, it does not surprise me.

The only thing that would surprise is something good or constructive coming from it.

Four years ago, the UPI vice president to whom I directed my rather forceful correspondence to Merriman Smith the year before asked me to write UPI's Sunday piece commemorating the assassination. Although I have always avoided what can be misinterpreted in commemoration, I did it. They liked it and put it on the wire. If a single one of UPI's thousands of subscribers printed it, I have not heard about it. It was on the wire. I have a wire copy. Knowing the policy of the Times, as I have for years, I am no longer even disappointed.

The one thing for which I would hope is that the next time he faces such a decision, Salisbury will remember this, as UPI did.

Eventually I may hear something. If and when I do, I'll let you know.

Sincerely,